

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Workforce Investment Act Adult Program

Workforce System Results
March 31, 2006

The challenges facing this country to ensure that workers have the skills businesses need are complex and require a solutions-based approach and the ability to leverage a wide array of resources.

Successful talent development requires a clear understanding of the economic context and collaboration on a regular and sustained basis among business and industry, the workforce system, economic development, and education and training providers to develop innovative workforce solutions that leverage WIA and a wide variety of other resources to ensure workers have the skills that businesses need in the 21st century economy. The goal is to strategically invest workforce system resources to effectively educate and prepare a skilled workforce.

Integrated service delivery is a core principle under the Workforce Investment Act. It promotes more comprehensive services to both individuals and businesses; it sets the stage for improved employment outcomes; and it eliminates duplication and conserves valuable resources.

Under the umbrella of the One-Stop delivery system, ETA has integrated all of its workforce development programs that target adults. Adult programs that operate through the One-Stop Career Centers include the broad adult services and dislocated worker programs authorized under the Workforce Investment Act; the Employment Service programs authorized under the Wagner-Peyser Act; more narrowly focused programs for Indians and Native Americans, and migrant and seasonal farmworkers; and the Senior Community Service Employment Program for older workers.

Individuals seeking assistance from a One-Stop Career Center are offered a combination of workforce development activities that may ultimately lead to increases in their employment, job retention, earnings, and occupational skills. The goal of these activities is not only to help all adults to be productive members of the workforce, but to improve the overall quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the nation in the global economy.

The workforce system that is anchored by the One-Stop Centers defines its success at preparing adult workers for the workplace and serving the needs of businesses by focusing on employment, retention in employment, and increased earnings of workers. These three common measures are applied to all of the adult programs mentioned above.

Performance data for the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker and the Wagner-Peyser Act programs are reported each quarter. The report includes the most recent quarter along with the previous three quarters, so that it is always a 12 month report.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Reporting the performance data for the more narrowly focused programs is slightly different in each of the three cases. The Indian and Native American program reports data only semi-annually and does not report for the most recent quarter. The National Farm Worker Job Training Program is still implementing the common measures and does not yet have complete data for each of the measures. Only the Entered Employment Rate can be reported for the most recent quarter. The Senior Community Service Employment Program is also in the process of implementing the common measures and does not have complete data to report for any of the measures for the recent quarter.

WIA Adult Services	WIA Adult Program	WIA Dislocated Worker Program	Wagner-Peyser Employment Service Programs	National Farmworker Jobs Program
Total Participants	622,886	321,346	13,266,698	13,311
Total Exiters	359,226	151,401	11,146,026	6,596
Entered Employment Rate	75.9%	79.8%	62%	64%
Employment Retention Rate	81.5%	87.3%	80%	N/A
Earnings Change	\$4,028	\$168	\$1,277	N/A

The data for the quarter ending March 31, 2006 show a considerable increase in total participants served by the WIA Adult Program: from 440,241 for the 12 months ending December 31, 2005, to 622,886 for the twelve months ending March 31, 2006 (42 percent). Increases in participants were also reported for the WIA Dislocated Worker and Wagner-Peyser Act programs. The number of Dislocated Workers increased from 317,715 to 321,346 (one percent).

The WIA Adult program experienced a 63 percent increase in exiters between the 12 months ending December 31, 2005 and the 12 months ending March 31, 2006, from 220,434 to 359,226. On the other hand, the WIA Dislocated Worker and the Wagner-Peyser Act programs both experienced a decrease in the number of exiters during this quarter.

For definitions of the measures cited above, see the **Glossary of Performance Measures**.

